

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the pending claims as indicated below by deleting the language that is stricken and adding the language that is underlined:

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1. (Currently Amended) A method for transparent file proxying, the method comprising the steps of:

coupling a plurality of computing devices to a local area network, at least one of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;

coupling said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a communication network;

coupling a remote memory element to said communication network, said remote memory element configured to maintain a file selected from said plurality of files contained in the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;

coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element;

intercepting, in said remote memory element, a an Internet Protocol (IP) communication message from said remote computing device; and

providing said selected file to said remote computing device when said remote memory element intercepts said IP communication message from said remote computing device if said IP communication message requests said selected file from one of said plurality of computing devices connected to said local area network, thus providing said selected file to said remote computing device without said IP communication message traversing said communication network and said local area network.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said plurality of computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote memory element.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said selected file is chosen to be maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said plurality of policies are
2 chosen from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said remote memory element
2 updates said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and
3 corresponding to said selected file to be updated.

1 6. (Currently Amended) A system for transparent file proxying, comprising:
2 a local network to which is coupled a plurality of computing devices, at least one
3 of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication
4 packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of
5 computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;
6 a communication network coupled to said at least one of said plurality of
7 computing devices;
8 a remote memory element coupled to said communication network and
9 configured to maintain a selected file selected from said plurality of files contained in the
10 memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;
11 a remote computing device connected to said remote memory element, said
12 remote memory element configured to intercept an Internet Protocol (IP) communication
13 message messages from said remote computing device; and
14 wherein said remote memory element is configured to provide said selected file to
15 said remote computing device when said remote memory element intercepts a said IP
16 communication message from said remote computing device, said IP communication
17 message requesting said selected file from one of said plurality of computing devices
18 connected to said local network, thus providing said selected file to said remote
19 computing device without said IP communication message traversing said
20 communication network and said local area network.

1 7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said at least one of said
2 plurality of computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said
3 remote memory element.

1 8. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said selected file is chosen to
2 be maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of policies.

1 9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein said plurality of policies are
2 chosen from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.

1 10. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein said remote memory element
2 updates said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and
3 corresponding to said selected file to be updated.

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1 11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a program for
2 transparent file proxying, the program comprising logic configured to perform the steps
3 of:

4 coupling a plurality of computing devices to a local area network, at least one of
5 said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication packets
6 to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of computing
7 devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;

8 coupling said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a
9 communication network;

10 coupling a remote memory element to said communication network said remote
11 memory element configured to maintain a file selected from said plurality of files
12 contained in the memory elements of each of said plurality of computing devices;

13 coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element;

14 intercepting, in said remote memory element, a an Internet Protocol (IP)
15 communication message ~~messages~~ from said remote computing device; and

16 providing said selected file to said remote computing device when said remote
17 memory element intercepts a said IP communication message from said remote
18 computing device, said IP communication message requesting said selected file from one
19 of said plurality of computing devices connected to said local area network, thus
20 providing said selected file to said remote computing device without said IP
21 communication message traversing said communication network and said local area
22 network.

1 12. (Original) The program of claim 11, wherein said at least one of said
2 plurality of computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said
3 remote memory element.

1 13. (Original) The program of claim 11, wherein said selected file is chosen
2 to be maintained in said remote memory element based upon any of a plurality of
3 policies.

1 14. (Original) The program of claim 13, wherein said plurality of policies are
2 chosen from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.

1 15. (Original) The program of claim 11, wherein said remote memory
2 element updates said selected file and causes a file located in said plurality of files and
3 corresponding to said selected file to be updated.
